

# E-Read Texas: TSLAC, Amigos, and SimplyE

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## E-Read Texas – An Overview

- E-book program for small to medium-sized public libraries
  - Primary goal: to help libraries offer e-books to their patrons
  - Separate from TexShare databases
  - 152 libraries participating to date
- Access to e-book collection of 6,500+ titles
- Access to SimplyE mobile app
  - TSLAC contracts Amigos to provide hosting and implementation
  - Libraries work with Amigos to add content

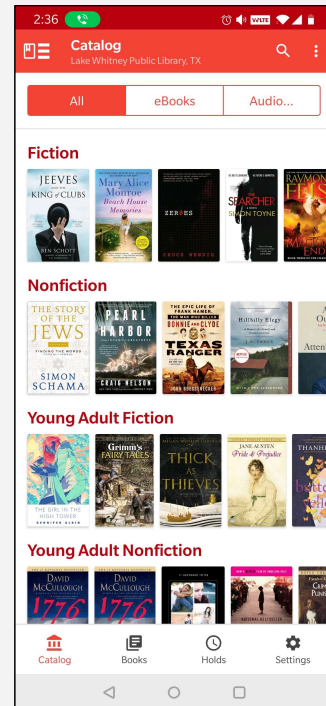


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## Who Can Join?

- Public libraries serving a community of no more than 100,000 people
  - Based on Public Libraries Annual Report data
- Libraries serving communities of more than 100,000 people can join if e-collection expenditures are under \$100,000/year
- Must submit an annual report to TSLAC each year



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## Supported Systems

- Auto-Graphics VERSO
- Biblionix Apollo
- Book Systems Atrium
- Evergreen
- Koha
- Ill: Sierra & Polaris
- TLC CARLX
- SirsiDynix: Symphony & Horizon

Have another system?

Email [simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org)

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## What does it cost?

- **No cost for public libraries serving population of less than 100,000**
  - SimplyE hosting fees are 100% paid by TSLAC
  - E-books are purchased by TSLAC
- **Funding in place through Aug. 31, 2023**

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## E-Read Texas Collection

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## Collection Scope



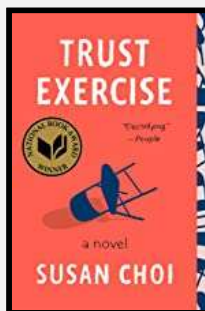
- Complement collections maintained by small and medium-sized public libraries in Texas
- Mostly adult fiction and popular non-fiction
- Collection development policy:  
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>
- TSLAC responsible for collection decisions
  - Support and input from the E-Read Texas Working Group: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/ebooksworking.html>

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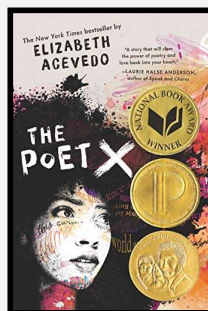
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## What Content does E-Read Texas Offer?

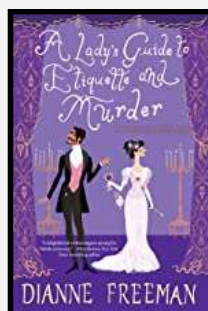
*Over 6,500 titles and growing*



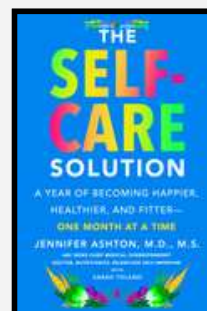
Award Winners



YA Fiction



Genre Fiction



Popular Non-Fiction



Popular Fiction

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## Fiction



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## Fiction – New Content



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## Non-Fiction



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## Non-Fiction – New Content



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## Audiobooks



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## 100+ Publishers



## Not included (for now)

Penguin  
Random  
House

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## Providers and License Models

- **Biblioboard:** <https://e-readtx.biblioboard.com/home>
  - Perpetual Access
  - Unlimited simultaneous users
  - Available online AND via SimplyE
  - Catalog records available
- **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)**
  - Multiple access models (1-year, 2-year, metered access, perpetual, open access)
  - Most are one simultaneous user
  - Available ONLY via SimplyE
  - No catalog records at this time

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## Copies and Holds

**Preferred:** perpetual non-metered access with unlimited simultaneous use

**But sometimes we can't avoid limits:**

- **Initial copies**
  - Non-fiction: 2-5
  - Fiction: 2-10 copies
    - High-demand fiction is expected to be needed for book club titles and school assignments
- **Hold ratio**
  - 6 holds per copy for e-books until a maximum of 250 copies is purchased
  - After 250 copies of any single title are purchased, TSLAC may attempt to negotiate a statewide license with publishers

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*SimplyE is an open source ebook & audiobook platform developed by libraries for libraries. It simplifies your patrons' users experience finding, borrowing and reading your library.*

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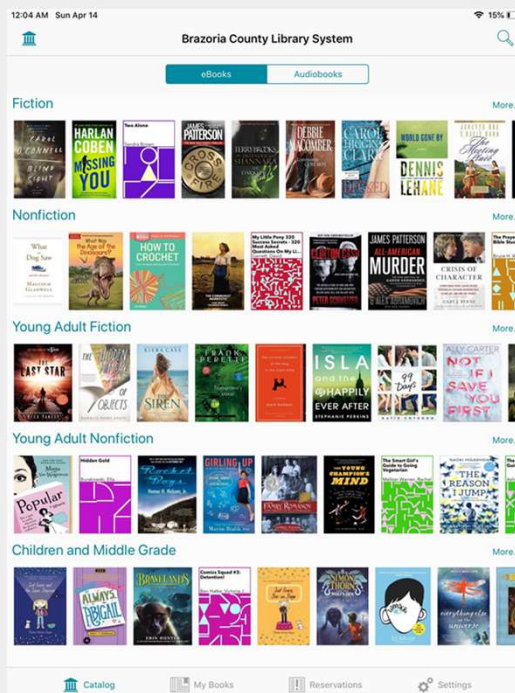
## SimplyE Replaces This . . .



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## With This . . .



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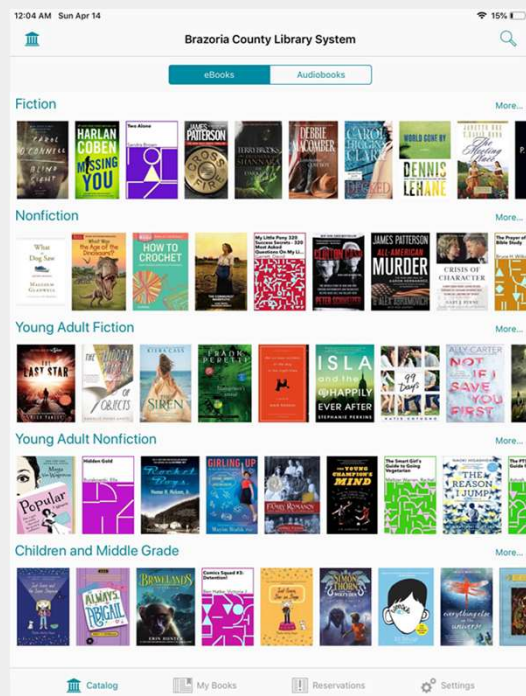
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## Current Content Providers



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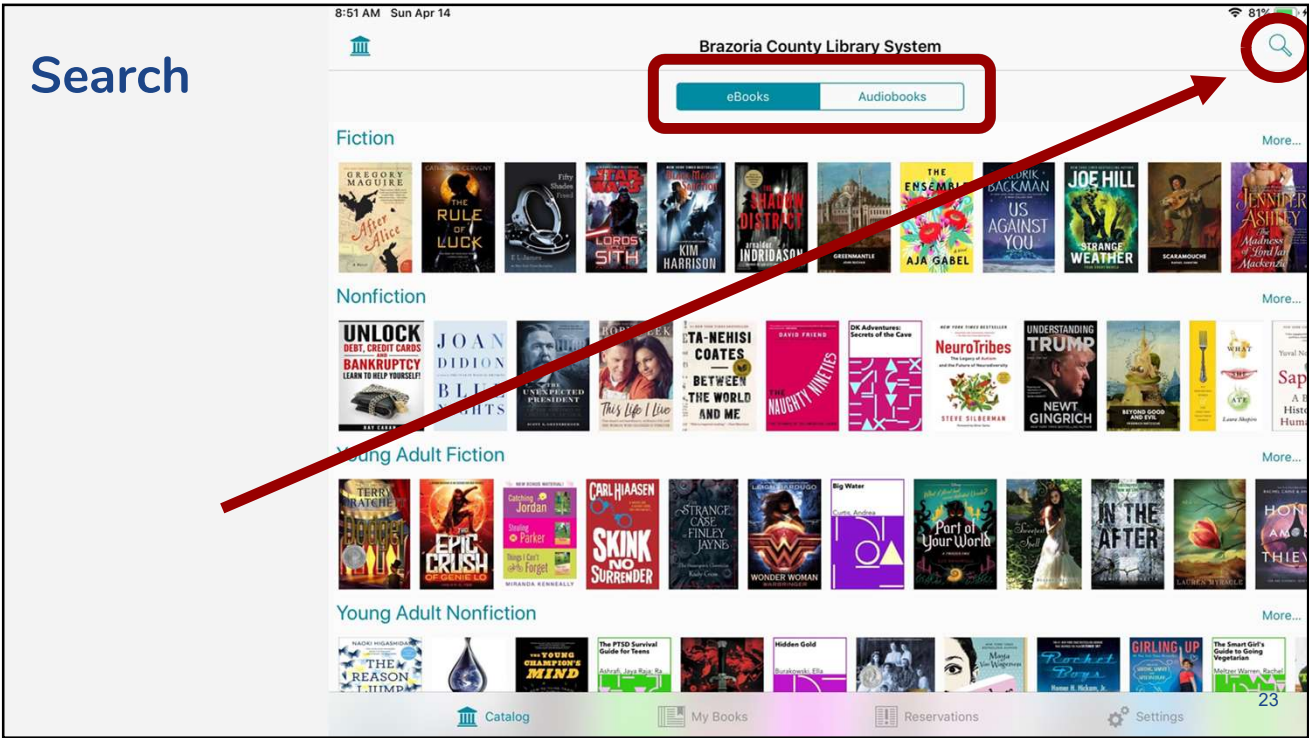
## SimplyE Demo



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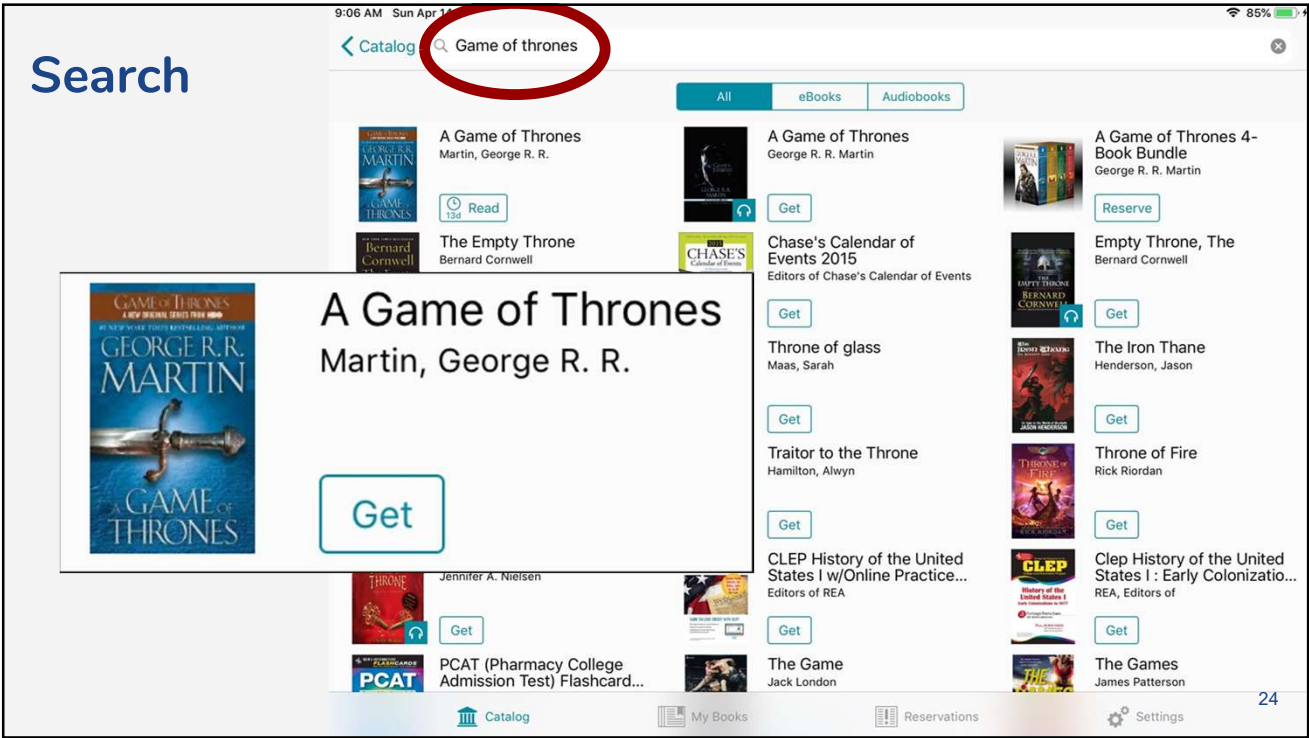
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Search



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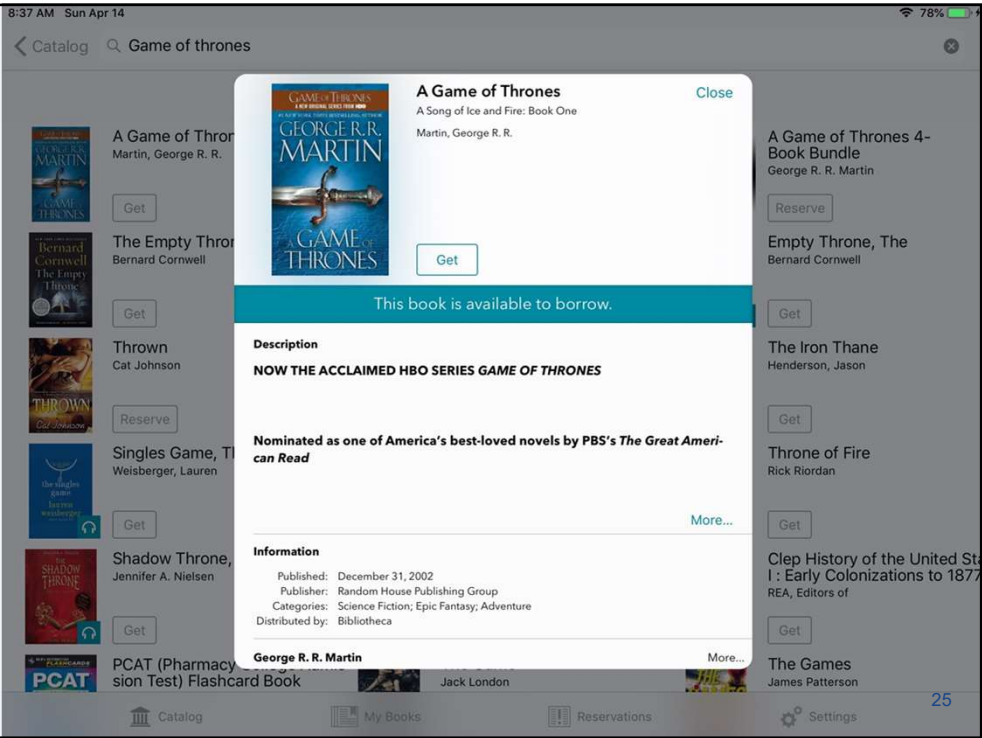
Search



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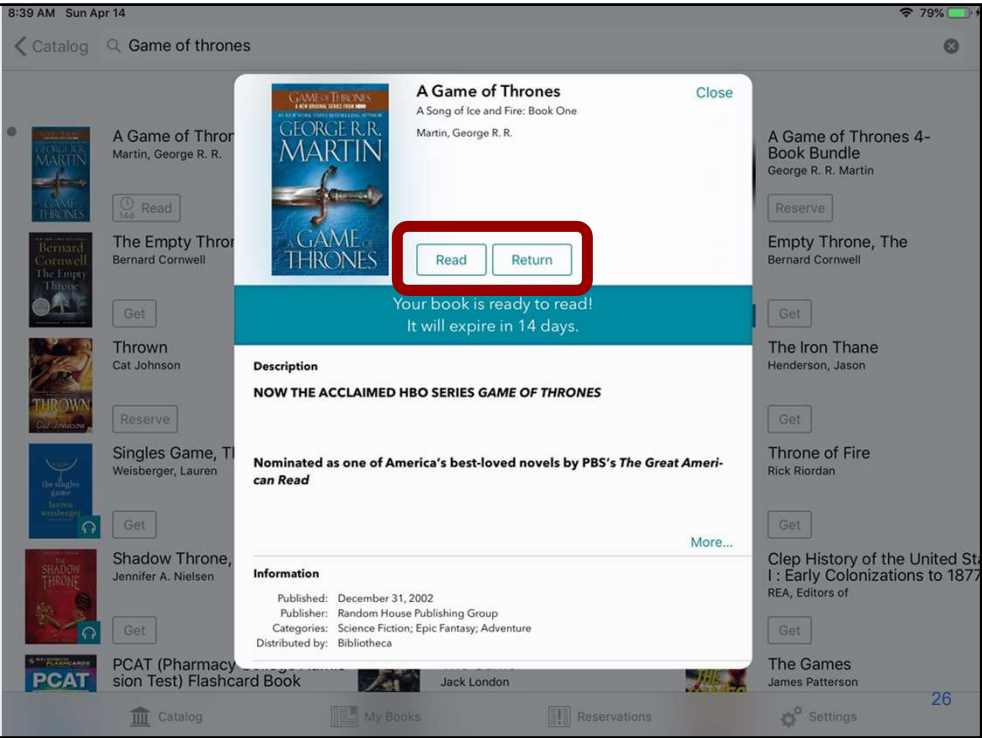


Item Detail



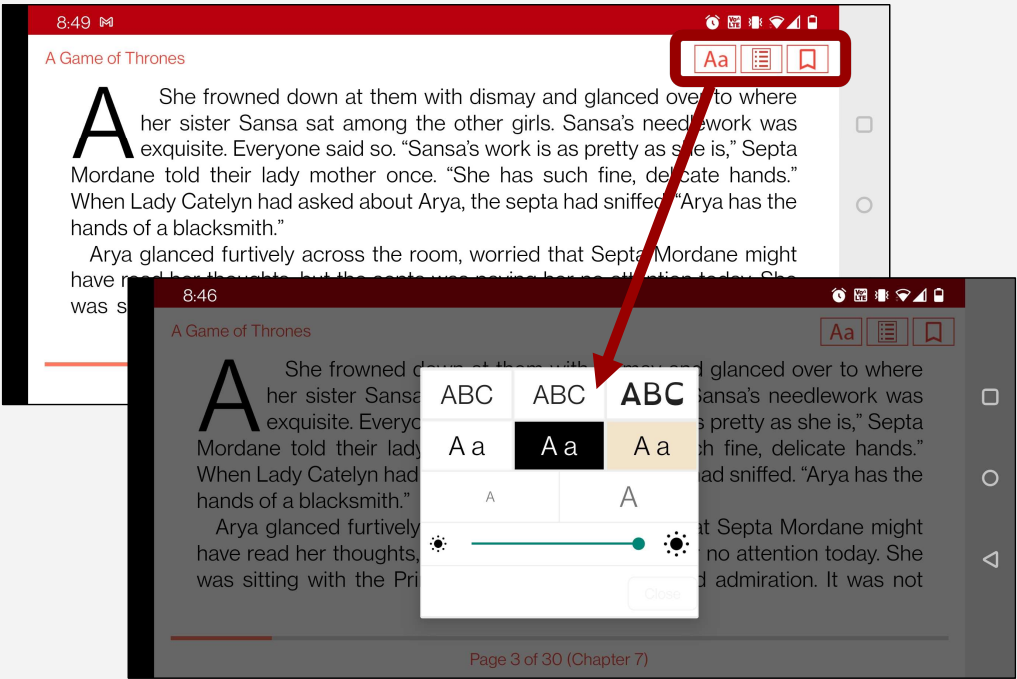
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Checkout



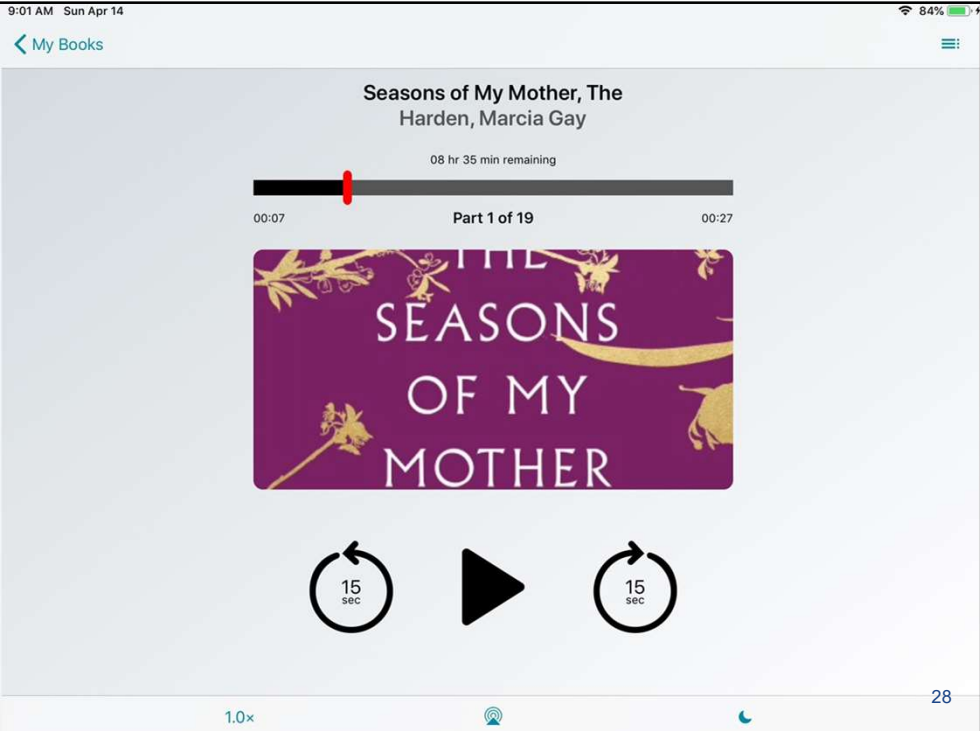
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Read



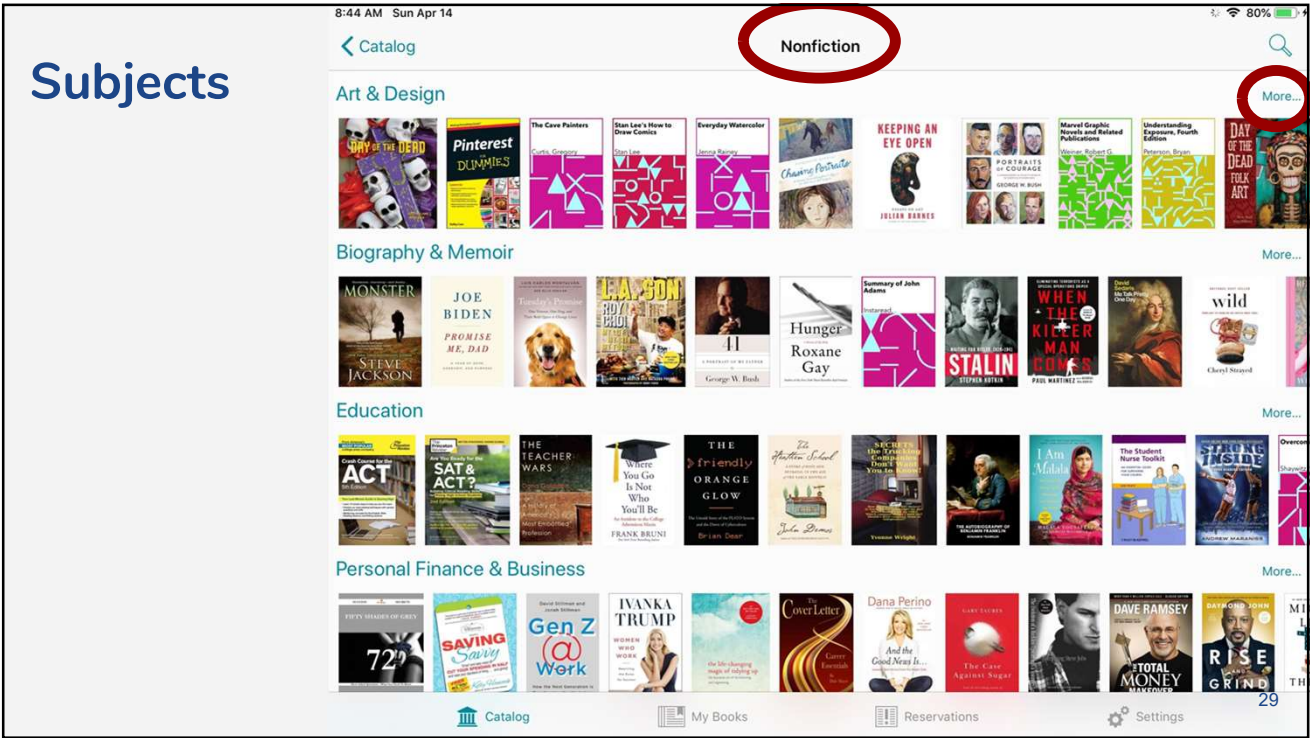
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Listen



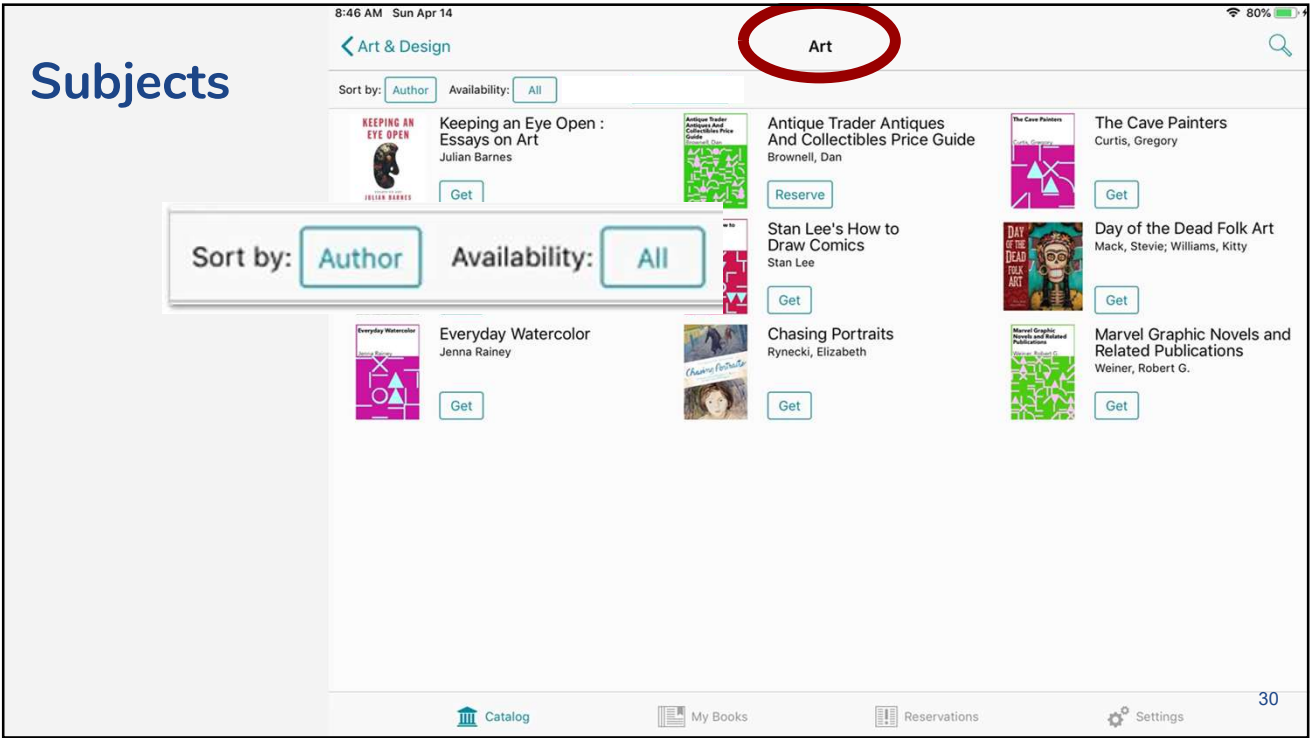
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Subjects

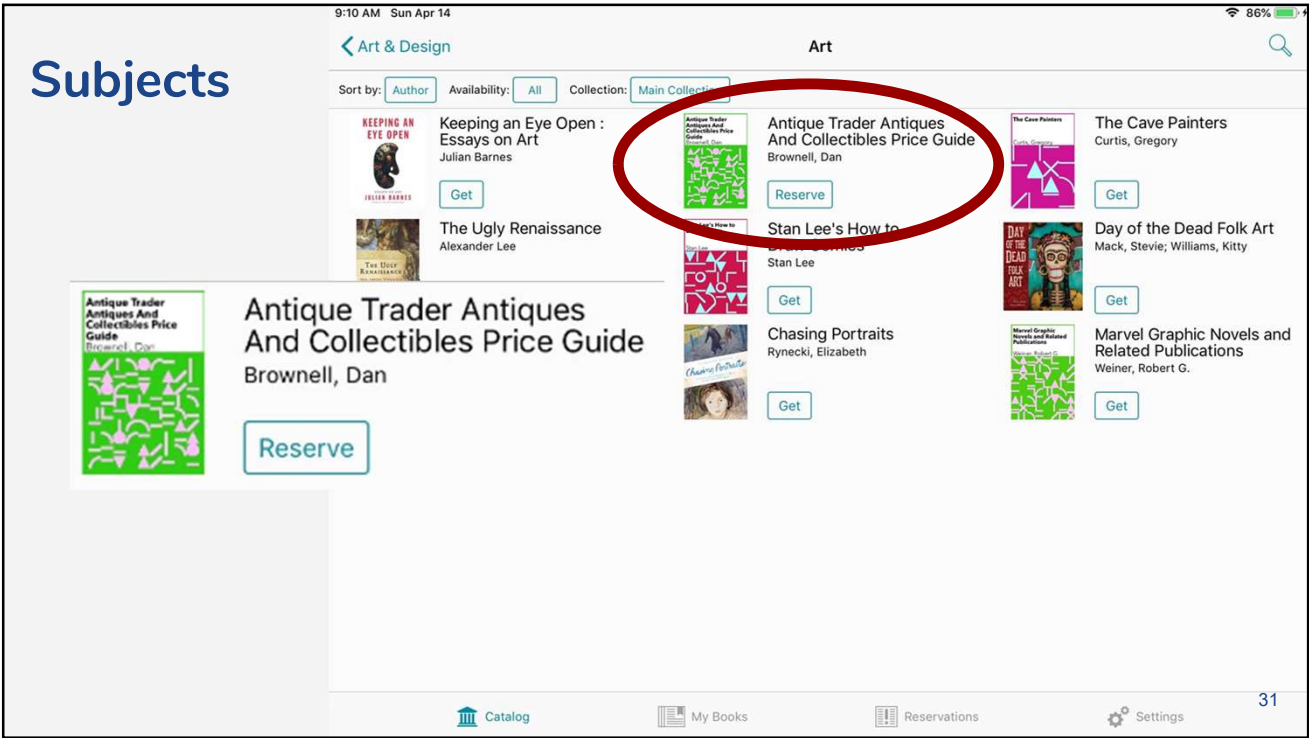


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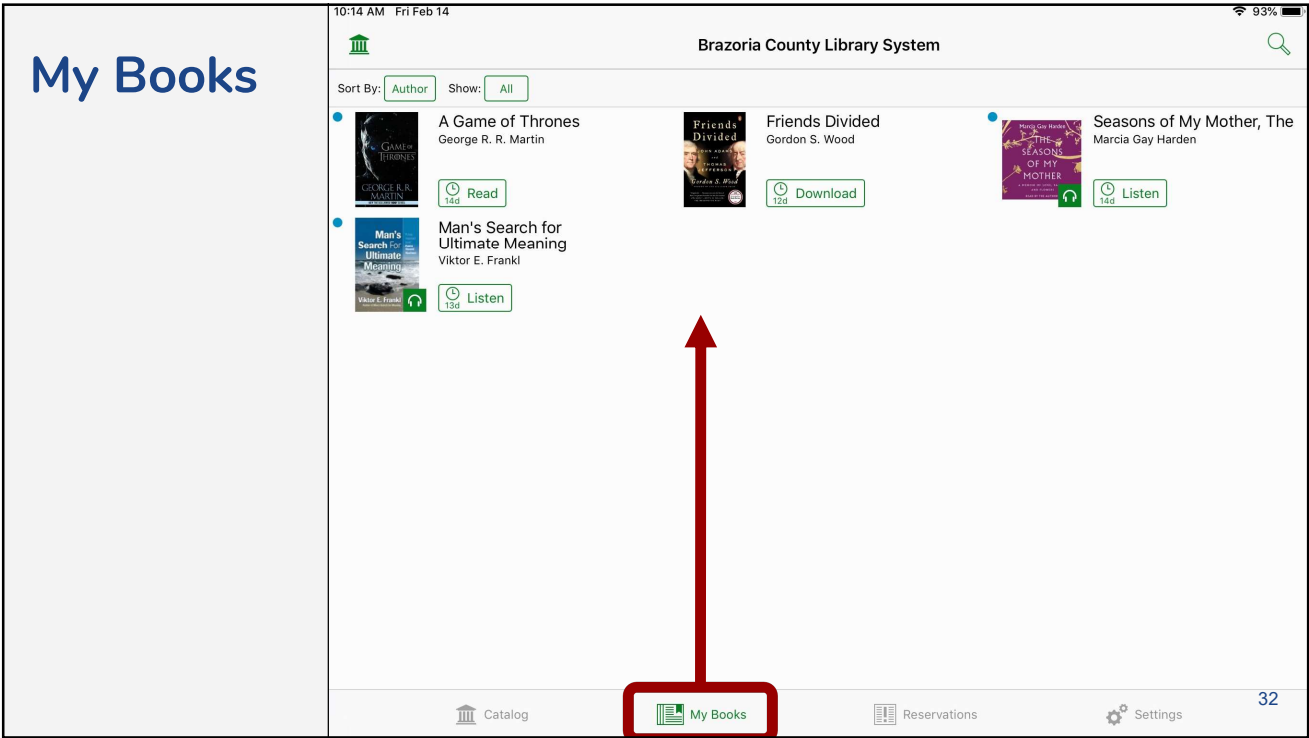
Subjects



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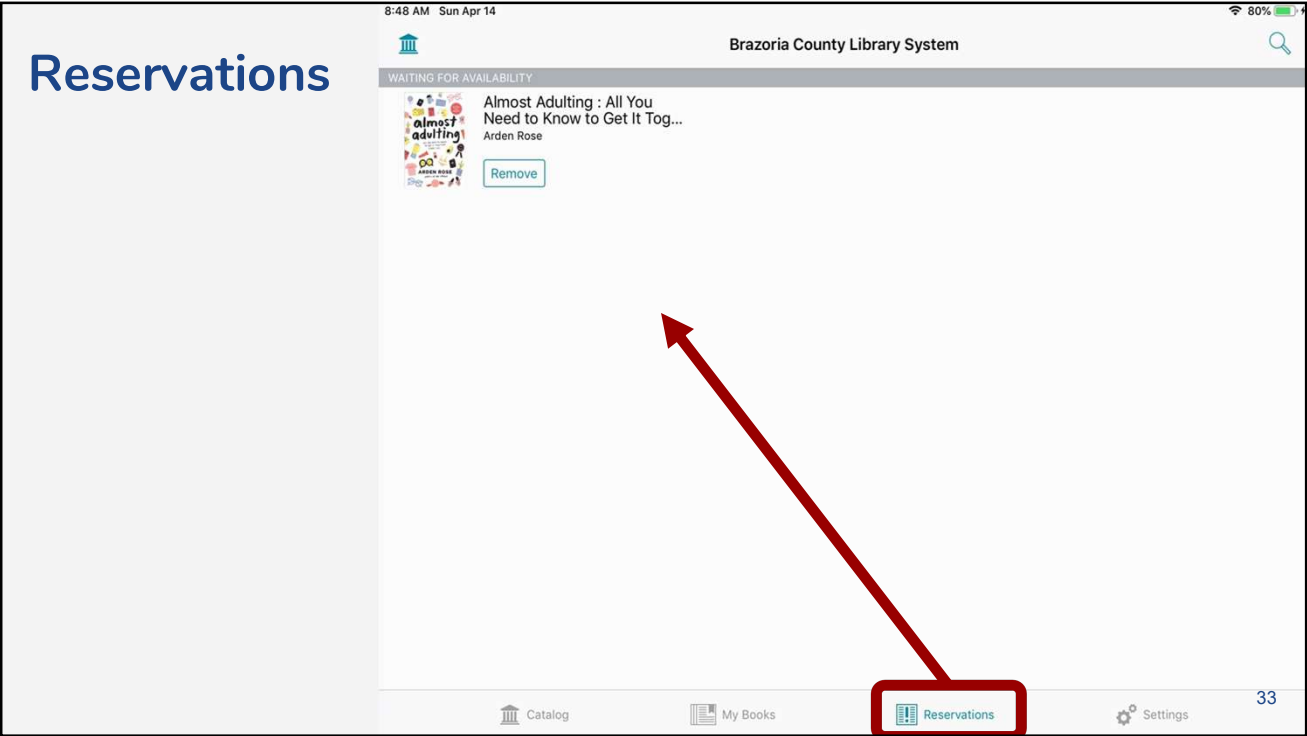


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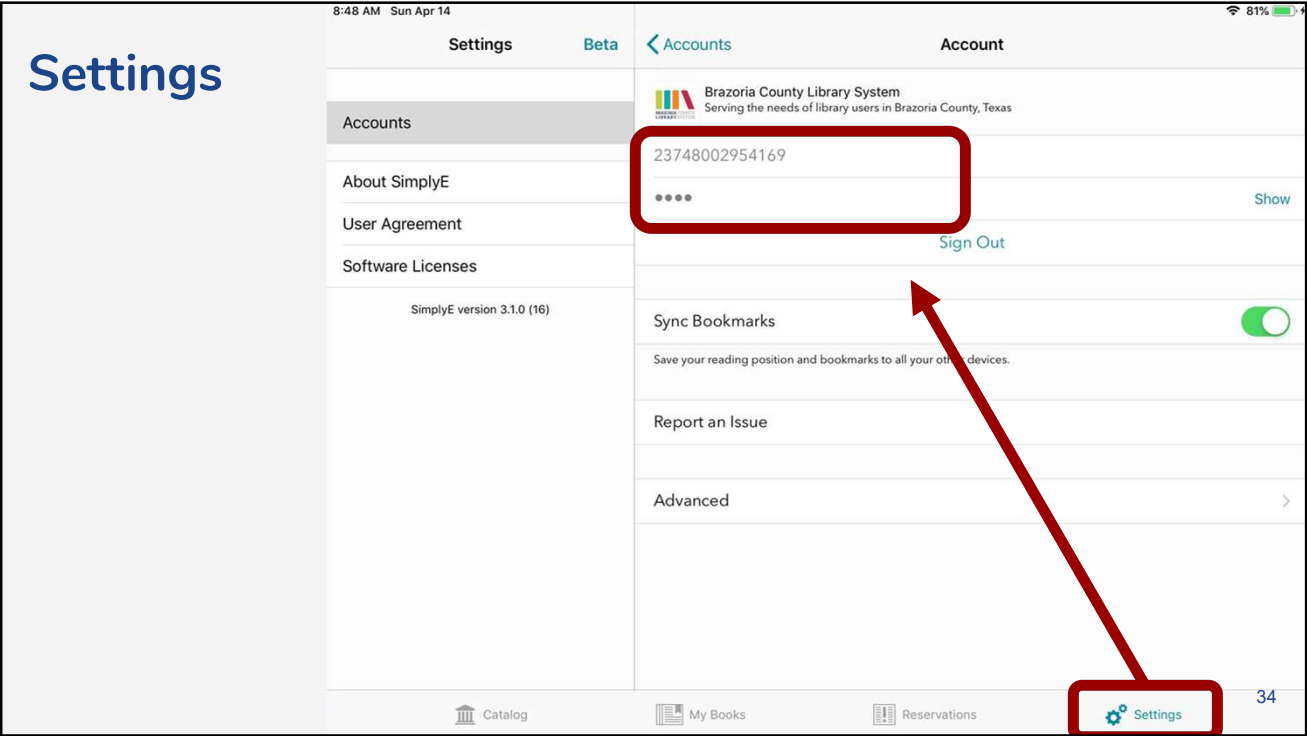


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# Details






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**TEXAS STATE LIBRARY  
AND  
ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

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## E-Read Texas


E-Read Texas brings electronic books to Texans served by small community libraries in all parts of the state. E-Read Texas provides library e-books and an e-reader application that make it possible for all Texans served by public libraries to access e-books.

### SimplyE

TSLAC has partnered with [Amigos Library Services](#) to implement [SimplyE](#), an e-book app, for smaller public libraries. SimplyE was developed by the New York Public Library in partnership with other major libraries in the nation in response to challenges patrons face in accessing e-books. As of May 2020, Amigos has implemented SimplyE for over 70 public libraries from all parts of Texas ([map](#)).

**Contact (for more information)**

- Amigos: [simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org)
- TSLAC: [texshare@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:texshare@tsl.texas.gov)



<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>

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## How Do We Start?

- To [simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org):
  - Agreement
  - Library Information Form
  - 135x135px logo

### E-READ TEXAS AGREEMENT

This Agreement is to record the understanding between AMIGOS LIBRARY SERVICES (Amigos) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Library) regarding the terms and conditions on which Amigos will provide SimplyE services to Library.

Amigos Library Services:

- Will host and maintain Library's implementation of SimplyE;
- Will aid Library in configuring the service;
- Will communicate with e-resource vendors on Library's behalf;
- Will provide technical support for Library staff

Library:

- Gives Amigos the authority to communicate with their e-resource vendors on their behalf;
- Will aid Amigos in configuring the service;
- Will market and publicize the service to their patrons;
- Will share marketing materials with Amigos, TSLAC, and other libraries
- Will work with Amigos to troubleshoot and correct issues

This Agreement shall take effect on the latest signature date by authorized representatives of Amigos and Library and shall be renewed annually. This Agreement may be terminated on 30-day written notice by either party.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized signature  
For Library

\_\_\_\_\_  
Miguel Figueroa  
For Amigos Library Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## How Do We Start?

- To [simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org):
  - Agreement
  - Library Information Form
  - 135x135px logo
- Confirmation from Amigos
- Placed in queue

This Agreement

will provide Simple

Amigos Library

- Will host
- Will aid
- Will co
- Will pr

Library:

- Gives
- Will aid
- Will m
- Will sh
- Will w

This Agreement  
and Library an  
by either party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized sig  
For Library

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### SimplyE @Amigos Library Implementation Form

Complete and return the following form to [simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org). Please let us know if you have any questions!

All items with an asterisk are required.

#### General Information

\*Library Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Website URL (main website, not necessarily the ILS/catalog site): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of active e-resource users: \_\_\_\_\_

Average number of monthly e-resource checkouts: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description or tagline

*This will be displayed under your library's name in the list of libraries in the SimplyE app. I've included an example on the last page:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Patron support email address

*The SimplyE mobile apps include an option for users to submit an "issue" to the library. This email address is used for that communication.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\*No-delivery email account

*This is an email account for which email is either immediately deleted or rejected, e.g., [no-reply@amigos.org](mailto:no-reply@amigos.org). If you have one, type it below. If you do not or are not sure, use ours - [no-reply@amigos.org](mailto:no-reply@amigos.org).*

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Amigos Staff

- **Chris Brown**
  - Configure
  - Test
  - Support
- **Christine Peterson**
  - Program Manager
- **Robert Williams**
  - Technical Analyst
- **Chauncy Garrett**
  - Server Admin



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## Ongoing

- **Library Primary Contact(s):**
  - Require at least one person per library
  - Update us with changes
    - Simplee-users email list
    - Monthly statistics
    - Amigos' primary contact for E-Read Texas
- **Patron questions go to library's email address**
- **TSLAC continues to develop collection**
- **Free SimplyE training - August**
  - App Interface & Searching
  - Roles & Library Configuration
  - Modifying Metadata
  - Lists & Lanes
  - Troubleshooting
  - Statistics

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# Promotional Materials from TSLAC

- Printable bookmarks & flyers available at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>
- Media kit – available on E-Read Texas website
  - Includes draft press release, template letter to elected officials, social media posts, and links to instructional materials



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## SimplyE Materials

<https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/SIM/Customizable+Aids+to+Help+Patrons>

## Customizable Aids to Help Patrons

Created by Christine Peterson, last modified on Aug 27, 2020

Below are documents that can be used as is, modified and customized by library staff to help patrons understand and use the SimplyE apps. They are the result of a 2020 grant awarded to Amigos Library Services from the Institute for Museum & Library Services through the Texas State Library & Archives Commission. Thanks go to not only these three organizations, but Marilyn Jacobs and Joy Markel, who created these documents for us, and Neil Esposito, who create the videos.

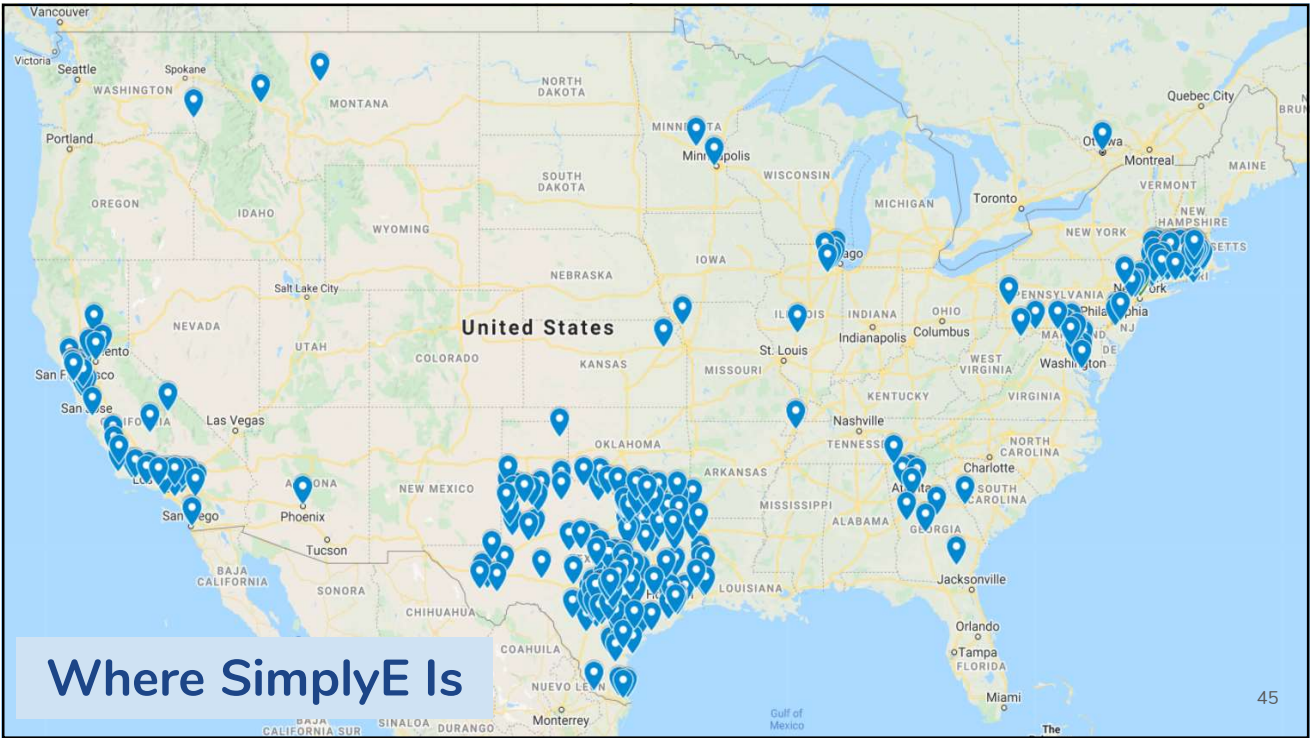
**Please Read This First: Letter to Librarians (pptx)**

- Communications Toolkit for Librarians (pptx)
- Getting Started (pptx)
- Palm Card (pptx)
- Poster (pptx)
- Social and Web Graphics
- Webinar Script (pptx)
- Welcome Flyer (pptx)
- Using and Troubleshooting SimplyE (pptx)
- Videos:
  - 31-second SimplyE Introduction
  - 101-second SimplyE Introduction

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# Try It Yourself



Download on the  
App Store



GET IT ON  
Google Play



## SimplyE

4+

The Library E-Reader  
The New York Public Library

#98 in Books


★★★★★ 4.4 • 3.1K Ratings

Free

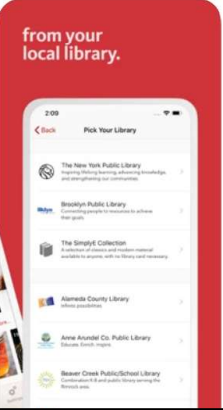
### Screenshots

iPhone iPad

#### Borrow eBooks




#### from your local library.




#### No library card?

Read classics from  
SimplyE Collection



#### Audiobooks

Check your library for  
availability



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## Next Steps

- **Ready now? Send to SimplyE@amigos.org:**
  - [Agreement](#)
  - [Library information form](#)
- **September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 pm Central**
  - Webinar for current participants
  - Updates, advanced features, Q&A
- **More overview sessions**
  - August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm Central

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## Texas State Library & Amigos

### Texas State Library

- Funding
- E-Read Texas collection
- Contact: Karen McElfresh,  
[kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov)
- <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY  
AND  
ARCHIVES COMMISSION

### Amigos Library Services

- SimplyE app
- Technical assistance
- Contact: Christine Peterson,  
[simplye@amigos.org](mailto:simplye@amigos.org)
- <https://www.amigos.org/simplye>

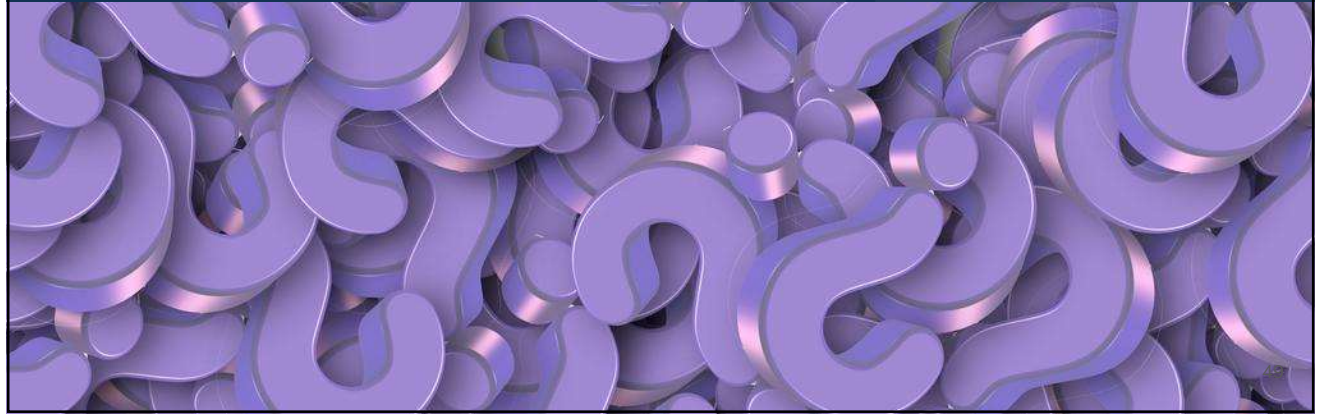


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## Q&A



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## Thank You



Karen McElfresh  
Texas State Library



Christine Peterson  
Amigos Library Services

[SimplyE@amigos.org](mailto:SimplyE@amigos.org)  
[kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov)

*This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission). (2020)*

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